

MARY MCGANN: My name is Mary McGann. I live in Moab, Utah where I'm a member of the Grand County Council. Today I'm speaking to you about the social economic, the environmental and the climate considerations as a citizen not as an elected official. For the majority of my life I have lived in extraction communities. Climax, Colorado which is now a ghost town. Nye, Montana that was considered a ghost town and now has a population of less than 300. Wallace, Idaho, once considered the silver capital of the world, and Moab, Utah where uranium was once king. I adore the rugged independent spirit of the people who make their living from extraction. While living in Wallace, Idaho the smelter town south of Wallace hillsides remained bare after the 1910 fire. When environmental groups were pressuring the smelters to clean up the air, they met with powerful resistance from those companies as well as their employees. It wasn't until the children in the valley developed lead poisoning that the companies were required to make the improvements needed to clean up the air. Once the air was clean, the trees and the plants returned, and the children no longer developed lead poisoning. The companies did not go bust as they said they would instead they had the most profitable years. The reason the silver mines ceased to be profitable was because of the market manipulation by William Herbert and Lamar Hunt. It is the market that is bringing an end to the coal industry. There are so many reasons why the BLM should cease granting permits to the coal companies, mines. To begin with, when these companies file bankruptcy, they walk away leaving a toxic clean up behind which the American taxpayers end up shouldering. I am the chair of the Moab Tailings Removal project. By the time that project is completed, it will cost of the American taxpayers billions of dollars. It's a safe bet that when coal companies file bankruptcy, which they have and will, they will often walk away leaving an environmental mess. Secondly, using coal to create power is detrimental to the environment by polluting the air which causes health problems, increases haze, and contributes to climate change. Thirdly, to cling to a dying industry does not serve anyone in the long run. Granting leases to coal companies will benefit the coal companies and their employees for a relatively short time. Prolonging the life of a dying industry that is detrimental to the health of our planet and the people who mine the coal is foolhardy. In conclusion, we as a nation could better serve the people in these hard hit communities by investing in economic development and job training. My heart

aches for the people in these communities as they watch their way of life disappear.